1: Jochelson E-5 (1900-01) 1908 RY4 Koryak RY4

have a broad chest, short and thick paws, and a large, comparatively short head.

Male dogs are gelded in order to make them quiet, and that they may retain fat notwithstanding the hard work they have to do. Ungelded males grow thin very quickly. Usually they are gelded when one year old. As they begin to mature at the age of six or seven months, the litter is obtained mainly from males that have not yet reached their full maturity and entered into possession of their full powers. This must have an unfavorable influence on the breed. Some owners leave particularly strong dogs ungelded until they are two or three years old, and use them for breeding-purposes.

The operation of gelding is at present performed with an ordinary knife. Two men hold the dog, which is laid on its back, firmly, while a third one cuts open the scrotum and removes the testicles by severing them from the spermatic ducts. To stop the bleeding, the scrotum is filled with snow. Usually the operation is performed on a cold day in winter, which is believed to be favorable to success. Ordinarily the dogs bear the operation well, and the wound soon heals. Rarely does a dog die from loss of blood. Once I saw a dog which remained almost motionless for a whole week after the operation, frequently licked the wound, and lay down on fresh snow to lessen the inflammation. The Russianized natives on the Kolyma told me that they would not allow the gelded dogs to lie down. The dogs are gelded during a short stop on a journey. Immediately after the operation the whole team is driven full speed, and the dog which has just been operated on must run along. In this way, say these cruel surgeons, the dogs get hardened, and bear the operation well. All the disagreeable traits in the character of the draught-dog noticed by travellers seem to me to apply mainly to gelded dogs. After the operation they lose all liveliness and sprightliness, become surly, indifferent to their companions, afraid of human beings, and attached exclusively to the trough from which they are fed.

VARIOUS USES OF THE DOG. — Besides driving, the dog is also used for sacrifices,[1] as a helpmate in hunting,[2] and its skin furnishes material for clothing.[3] The Koryak deny ever having used dogs for food, except in times of famine. Their myths, too, refer with contempt to the custom of eating dogmeat. The heroes of some myths mock the Raven-Man because he eats dog-meat and excrement,[4] both being considered equally despicable. On the other hand, it should be remarked that the people who sacrifice dogs to divinities usually also eat them, as the Gilyak, Ainu,[5] and Indians; for the

[1] Compare Part I, pp. 90—97; Bogoras, The Chukchee, Vol. VII of this series, p. 525.
[2] See Chapter VII.
[3] See Chapter IX.
[4] Compare Part I, p. 199.
[5] See Schrenck, II, p. 167; Sternberg, The Gilyak, p. 40.